(b) There is a proposal to increase the retirment age of university teachers from 62 years to 65 years. The Government has not taken any decision in this regard.

(c) Does not arise, in view of the above.

Visit of educationists' delegation to Saudi Arabia

†583. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently a delegation of educationists made a visit to Saudi Arabia alongwith him; and

(b) if so, the issues discussed with Saudi Arabia for mutual co-operation and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of the visit was to expand relations with Saudi Arabia in the field of Education. The visit was very fruitful. Meetings were held with King of Saudi Arabia, the Education Minister of Saudi Arabia and other important dignitaries. Various matters concerning collaboration in the field of Education and interaction between Institutions of India and Saudi Arabia were discussed.

Reconstruction of university system

584. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a demand for reconstruction of the university system in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the deteriorating health of universities in the past two decades has affected scientific research base; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.